

Chairperson: Supervisor Michael Mayo, Sr.  
Clerk: Linda K. Durham, 278-4225  
Committee Staff: Glenn Bultman, 278-5276  
Rick Ceschin, 278-5003  
Martin Weddle, 278-5289

## **MILWAUKEE COUNTY REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, March 1, 2011 – 1:30 P.M.**  
**Milwaukee County Courthouse - Room 201-B**

### **MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Supervisors Broderick, Borkowski, Johnson, Weishan, West, Thomas and Mayo (Chair) - 7

#### **SCHEDULED ITEMS:**

**1. History of Milwaukee County Board Redistricting. (Verbal report from County Board staff)**

**APPEARANCE(S):**

Glenn Bultman, Research Analyst, County Board

Mr. Bultman advised the Committee that every ten years, after the census, the County Board is required to redistrict. Prior to 1971, the County Board seats were identical to the State Assembly seats. The County Board had to adjust to whatever the state assembly adopted. In 1971, partially because of one man one vote, and because the County Board asked for legislation to do it themselves, the County Board could do their own redistricting. In 1972, the new boundaries for a 25 district plan were implemented by the County Board and the first Board was elected under their own boundaries. In 2003, even though the County Board had adopted a 25 district plan in 2001, legislation was pursued to downsize the County Board. A resolution to that affect was adopted and the State legislature gave the authority to the County Board to downsize once after the 2001 census. The County Board adopted a redistricting plan for 19 districts in 2003.

Mr. Bultman provided comments relative to the following documents distributed to the Committee in their packet: Percentage of Population by Race-County Board 2004, Vote Age with Percentage-County Board Adopted 2004 and a map of Milwaukee County 2003 Adopted Supervisor Districts (copies of documents are attached to the original of these minutes).

**2. State requirements for Milwaukee County redistricting.**

**APPEARANCE(S):**

Glenn Bultman, Research Analyst, County Board

## **SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED)**

Mr. Bultman referred the Committee to Chapter 59.10(2) of the Wisconsin Statutes (a copy of which is attached to the original of these minutes) which states that the County board has to adopt a tentative plan within 60 days of receiving the population from the census bureau by block and by race. The tentative plan can be for any number of districts. It's up to the County Board to decide how many districts they would like to have. It could be larger or small than the current 19.

After the County Board adopts the tentative plan, it is communicated by the County Clerk to the municipalities. Each of the municipalities are required to draw ward lines that are compatible with the tentative plan. Under the statutes, they should make a good faith effort to follow the County's plan. It doesn't have to be identical. The ward line plan has to permit the County to adopt a redistricting supervisory plan that would be compatible with one man one vote requirements. In the past, municipalities have worked with County Board staff and supervisors and there have been no problems adjusting the ward plan.

Questions ensued relative to who sets the ward lines.

Mr. Bultman advised that it's a dual responsibility under the statutes. The County Board sets the lines for their tentative plan and then the municipalities have to make a good faith effort to draw the ward lines that are compatible with the County's plan. In some cases, there are deviations from the County's actual plan in their ward lines. The municipalities are required by law to consider the needs of the County's tentative plan when they draw their ward lines. If the County Board feels that when the municipalities draw their ward lines that they are not sufficiently following what the County Board adopted, the County Board has the authority to take it into Circuit Court and challenge the ward lines that they have; however, this has never happened because minor differences have always been worked out.

Mr. Bultman advised that there has to be one public hearing (required by law) before the tentative plan can be adopted. The final plan is not adopted until after the cities/villages finalize their wards. The final plan has to be done 60 days after the last wards have been established. The latest this could be done is usually September and the earliest is July.

### **3. Federal requirements for Milwaukee County redistricting.**

#### **APPEARANCE(S):**

Glenn Bultman, Research Analyst, County Board

John Jorgensen, Principal Assistant Corporation Counsel

Mr. Bultman advised that Federal requirements primarily consists of two things:

(1) "one person-one vote". The populations of supervisory districts, aldermanic districts and state legislative districts has to be substantially equal in population (addressed on page 9 of the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) handout, a copy of which is attached to the original of these minutes).

## SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED)

(2) Voting Rights Act, which deals with creating minority districts in a fair way (addressed on page 12 of the Wisconsin Counties Association handout, a copy of which is attached to the original of these minutes). Federal law requires that voting age percentage be considered. Mr. Bultman advised that any legal questions from the Committee should be referred to Corporation Counsel. They will provide a written response.

Mr. Bultman provided comments relative to district size and deviation. He referred the Committee to pages 10 and 11 of the WCA handout. Mr. Jorgensen commented that his understanding of the process is not much more sophisticated than what Mr. Bultman explained and the information contained in the WCA report.

#### **4. Next Meeting Date: April 6, 2011 at 1:30 P.M.**

Mr. Bultman advised that before the next meeting, he would distribute 2010 census data to the Committee.

Mr. Chairman commented that he would like for the Committee to start thinking about the size of the County Board and what number they believe is fair to maintain good services for the citizens of Milwaukee County. He suggested that committee members meet with Mr. Bultman, Mr. Ceschin or Mr. Weddle to come up with ideas for discussion at the next meeting. He advised that this is a team effort.

This meeting was recorded on tape. Committee files contain copies of communications, reports and resolutions, which may be reviewed upon request to the Chief Committee Clerk. The official copy of these minutes, along with the audio recording of this meeting, are available in the County Board Committee Services Division.

Length of Meeting: Approximately 1:30 to 2:14 p.m.

*Linda K. Durham*

Linda K. Durham, Committee Clerk  
Redistricting

<p><i>ADA accommodation requests should be filed with the Milwaukee County Office for Persons with Disabilities, 278-3932 (voice) or 278-3937 (TTY), upon receipt of this notice.</i></p>
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